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A Lathridiid Beetle Reported To Bite Man.

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In Miami, Florida three members of a family were bitten by beetles most of which were found on the bed sheets, window sills, night table, and walls in the bedroom. A smaller number were noticed on underwear, night clothes, and in the tub after bathing. Only one of the beetles was actually discovered on the skin surface. The bites resulted in pea-sized red papules some of which were capped with vesicles. The patients were not conscious of the bites, but the lesions became itchy in a few hours. Most of the bites were on covered parts of the body.

After the house was fumigated, the greatest concentration of specimens was in a Mexican sewing basket. Forty-one examples were collected by shaking it over a white sheet. Four days after fumigation a few live specimens were found. In the last eight months the family had received a number of visitors and articles from Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and the Philippine Islands.

Dr. A. B. Litterer of Miami submitted specimens to Professor Alexander Petrunkevitch of Yale, from whom the insect was received. The material agrees exactly with H. C. Fall's description of *Belonia unicastata* (Belon) a beetle of the family Lathridiidae. The correct name is now *Eufallia seminivea* Mots.

Evidently this occurrence is the first time any beetle of this family has become important medically. For a complete description consult H. C. Fall, 1899, *Trans. American Ent. Soc.*, 26:142-3, pl. 4, figs. 37, 37a, 37b. An excellent figure can be found on plate 19 of D. Sharp, *Biologia Centralia-Americana, Coleoptera*, vol. 2, part 1, 1902. Fall compared specimens from Crescent City, Florida, with the type. Since specimens have been seen from Alabama: Mobile, and Florida: Dunedin, Crescent City, and Biscayne Bay, the beetle is evidently native to Florida. But in this case it may well have been introduced from Mexico in the sewing basket. The outbreak occurred in May, 1948.

The writer is indebted to Dr. Litterer for the data accompanying the specimens.